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Allegiances

ThunderClan:

Leader: Oakstar: A sturdy brown tabby tom

Deputy: Beetail: A brown tabby tom with nearly black stripes

Medicine cat: Ravenwing: A black tom with blue eyes.

Warriors:

Deerdapple: A silver and black tabby she-cat.
Apprentice: Nettlepaw

Frecklewish: A spotted golden tabby she-cat with dark amber eyes.
Apprentice: Deerpaw

Bloomheart: A grey tabby tom

Seedpelt: A light brown and white tom
Apprentice: Lynxpaw

Whisperlight: A smallish fluffy black she-cat. (Owned by @ frog _the _knife on Reddit)

Fernpool: Bright ginger tabby she-cat with a few small white patches and green eyes
Apprentice: Brightpaw

Hawkleap: Pale ginger tabby she-cat with marbled stripes and amber eyes

Nutstep: Light brown she-cat with white toes and green eyes

Blossomwind: Light brown she-cat with tabby stripes on her face, legs and tail , white belly and chest, green eyes

Thrushtalon: Light brown tabby tom

Apprentice: Stagpaw

Featherleap: Long-haired ginger she-cat with grey ears ,paws and a few spots on her back. Bright amber eyes
Apprentice: Thistlepaw

Flamepool: Ginger tabby she-cat with green eyes

Sweetbriar:Light brown tabby she-cat with white paws and green eyes

Fallowsong: Light brown she-cat with yellow eyes

Patchcloud: Black and white tom with orange eyes
Apprentice: Lionpaw

Sandypetal: Ashy-brown tom with black paws and pale blue eyes

Rainshade: Curly-furred mottled light grey tom with dark green eyes and tufted ears
Apprentice: Finchpaw

Apprentices:

Nettlepaw: Ginger tabby tom

Deerpaw: Beautiful speckled brown she-cat with green eyes.

Stagpaw: Dark brown tabby tom with green eyes.

Lynxpaw: Tall, dark brown tom with curly, slightly messy fur. He has long ears with cream colored eartufts and cream right hindpaw. Dark green eyes (Owned by @ bstroneart on Instagram)

Finchpaw: Grey she-cat with darker dapples , tabby striped tail and yellow eyes

Lionpaw: Light brown tabby tom with white chest and ice-blue eyes

Thistlepaw: Grey she-cat with lighter grey face, tail and paws, orange eyes

Brightpaw: Brown tom with a small white dash on his chest , tabby

stripes on his frontlegs and tail and bright blue eyes

Queens and kits:
Mapleshade: Thick-furred tortoiseshell and white queen with amber eyes.
Mother of:
Petalkit: Light brown shekit with green eyes.
Larchkit: Dark brown tomkit with dark amber eyes
Patchkit: White and orange tomkit with green eyes

Dawnfeather: Pale orange she-cat with white belly paws and pale blue eyes. Expecting Rainshade's kits

Willowflame: Very pale tortoiseshell she-cat with pale blue eyes.
Mother of:
Birchkit: Grey and white tabby shekit with yellow eyes
Honeykit: Tortoiseshell shekit with white patch on her upper chest and face, zig zag marking on her lower chest, hindlegs, pale orange tabby speckles , tail and white tailtip, green eyes
Aspenkit: Tortoiseshell shekit with a small white patch on her nose, chest , frontpaws, hindlegs, right eartip , bright ginger tabby patches and tail, white tailtip and orange eyes

Elders: Rabbitfur : A grey tabby tom

RiverClan:

Leader: Darkstar: Black she-cat

Deputy: Spiketail: A dark grey tom

Medicine cat: Bristleflight: A white she-cat with black patches, and golden and silver stripes. (Owned by @Bristlefrost101 on Reddit)

Warriors:

Rainfall: A skinny black tom

Appledusk: A pale brown tom with green eyes
Apprentice: Perchpaw

Reedshine: A dark orange she-cat

Milkfur: A white she-cat
Apprentice : Vixenpaw

Fluffwing: A white tom with blue eyes. Deaf. (Owned by @Morty1545 on Reddit)

Splashfoot: A pale grey tom
Apprentice: Dewpaw

Eeltail: A grey and black tabby she-cat

Birchfoot: A dark brown and white tabby tom with orange eyes

Scaleclaw: A red tom (Owned by @ TheSignificance671 on Reddit)
Apprentice: Toadpaw

Dawnfang: A cream and white she-cat with amber eyes
Apprentice: Hollypaw

Foxslash: A muscular blue grey and ginger tabby tom with dark blue eyes (Owned by @ Hurricanestorm of RiverClan on Amino)

Cedarstep: A dark reddish-brown she-cat with white chest, underbelly and tailtip, orange eyes

Otterleap: A pale brown tabby tom with white splotches and green eyes
Apprentice: Smokepaw

Hawkfang: A grey tom with amber eyes
Apprentice: Scorchpaw

Sunblaze: A fluffy golden tabby tom with green eyes

Stormfeather: Long-haired dark grey she-cat with few pale ginger patches and blue eyes

Gorsespot: White tom with cream spotted tabby tail and ears, green eyes

Flintstrike: Sturdy grey tom with a few small dark brown speckles on his back, tail and paws, green eyes

Shellsong: Chocolate tortoiseshell she-cat with amber eyes

Nightshade: Black she-cat with a small white patch on her chest and paws, yellow eyes

Stoneheart: Mottled,marbled grey and white tabby tom with pale green eyes

Galepelt: Long-haired grey tom with wispy fur and pale amber eyes

Sleetfur: Grey she-cat with darker spots and blue eyes
Apprentice: Pikepaw

Frostpelt: Young, handsome long-haired white tom with silvery-grey patches and bright amber eyes

Fernwing : Tortoiseshell she-cat with distinctive dapples of black, brown and creamy white , amber-orange eyes

Apprentices:

Perchpaw: Thick-furred spotted tabby tom

Dewpaw: Brown tom with a white muzzle, chest, and ear tips. Green eyes. (Owned by @A-R-U on Reddit)

Vixenpaw: Red she-cat with dark tailtip
(Owned by @ TheSignificance671 on Reddit)

Scorchpaw: Tortoiseshell she-cat.
(Owned by @ TheSignificance671 on Reddit)

Toadpaw: Light brown and white tom with amber eyes.

Pikepaw: Light brown she-cat with a few white speckles and fiery amber eyes
(owned by @ mudeater on Amino)

Hollypaw: Black she-cat with green eyes

Smokepaw: Long-haired black smoke tom with white paws and amber eyes

Queens and kits:
Frostfall: White queen with black tail. Mother of Spiketail's kits:
Heronkit: Black and white tomkit
Swankit: White she kit with a black tailtip and a few black patches on her back, sides and hind legs
Mintkit: Light grey tabby tomkit
(All owned by @ Significance617 on Reddit)

Nettlecloud: White she-cat with dark russet speckles and blue eyes. Expecting Splashfoot's kits.

Elders:

WindClan:

Leader: Swiftstar: Dark grey-black tom with a long tail and green eyes.

Deputy: Snowpelt: White tom with few grey patches and green eyes.

Medicine cat:
Larkwing: Silver-grey she-cat with black stripes

Warriors:

Brightwing: Pale yellow tom with white chest and tailtip, blue eyes

Hollyfang: Black tom with a white dash on his chest and green eyes
Apprentice: Mudpaw

Acornpelt: Mottled brown tom with green eyes

Jayfang: Dark blue-grey tom with green eyes
Apprentice: Rainpaw

Snaketail: Dark grey tabby tom with amber eyes and a long , dark striped tail

Slatefur: Dark grey she-cat with amber eyes
Apprentice: Brindlepaw

Flowerstep: Pale silver she-cat with small white patches and pale

amber eyes

Cloudwing: Fluffy pale grey tom with a white chest and green eyes
Apprentice: Fernpaw

Flaxpelt: Light brown she-cat with white markings on her face and chest, dark green eyes

Mottlefang: Mottled brown and white tom with long fangs and pale green eyes
Apprentice: Grasspaw

Pinestep: Reddish brown and tawny she-cat with bright green eyes

Dustleap: Pale brown tabby she-cat with amber eyes
Apprentice: Eaglepaw

Apprentices:
Mudpaw: A mottled light brown she-cat with amber eyes

Rainpaw: Grey tom with amber eyes

Eaglepaw: A mottled dark brown tom with amber eyes

Fernpaw: Silvery-grey she-cat with black tabby stripes , a white chest and dark green eyes

Brindlepaw: Pale tabby calico she-cat with dark green eyes

Grasspaw: Dark brown tom with cream paws and leaf-green eyes

Queens and kits:

Thistlestep: Beautiful dark grey she-cat with white toes and green eyes. Expecting Brightwing's kits

Rainheart: Pale grey and white spotted tabby she-cat with dark amber eyes. Mother of:
Hollowkit: Grey and white tomkit with yellow eyes
Dovekit: Dark grey spotted tabby shekit with white patches on her back and amber eyes
Shellkit: Mostly white shekit with a few pale grey spots and blue

eyes

Nightfall: Black she-cat with a white chest and left front paw, yellow eyes. Expecting Cloudwing's kits

Elders:

ShadowClan:

Leader: Hollystar: Black tom with white paws, green eyes

Deputy: Barkheart: Mottled brown tabby she-cat

Medicine cat: Sloefur: Long-haired black tom with blue eyes

Warriors:

Hailstorm : Mottled long-haired dark grey tom with white paws and dark green eyes
Apprentice: Crowpaw

Aspenclaw: Large dark grey tom with long front claws and one white paw, green eyes

Thornfang: Bracken-colored she-cat with green eyes.
Apprentice: Amberpaw

Shadeheart: Dark grey tabby tom with white toes and green eyes

Owltalon: Mottled brown and white tom with yellow eyes
Apprentice: Frogpaw

Swiftpelt: Black and white she-cat with amber eyes
Apprentice: Jaypaw

Cedarclaw: Brown tabby tom with green eyes

Hazelpelt: Dark brown tabby she-cat with a few white spots and pale green eyes
Apprentice: Mothpaw

Ivyfang: Dark grey tabby she-cat with sky-blue eyes

Flintflight: Muscular tawny tom with grey flecks and amber eyes

Sageblaze: Dark golden and white tom with dark green eyes
Apprentice: Ripplepaw

Fernflower: Tawny and white she-cat with green eyes

Wolffur:Dark grey tom with yellow eyes
Apprentice: Lightningpaw

Roseflame: Slender, red spotted white she-cat with fierce amber eyes

Sedgeclaw: Very dark cream tabby tom with blue eyes

Frostsong: White she-cat with few reddish patches and pale blue eyes

Heronfang: Black and white tom with yellow eyes

Splashflame: Golden and tawny tabby she-cat with very pale amber eyes
Apprentice: Cherrypaw

Duskstrike: Pale tortoiseshell she-cat with yellow eyes

Apprentices:
Crowpaw: Dark grey she-cat with a white tailtip. Amber eyes

Amberpaw: Pale ginger tabby she-cat with a white chest. Green eyes

Frogpaw: Brown tabby tom with a white left front paw and amber eyes

Jaypaw: Grey tom with white paws and amber eyes

Mothpaw: Mottled greyish-brown tom with bright amber eyes

Lightningpaw: Pale cream she-cat with very dark cream, nearly brown,jagged tabby stripes and dark blue eyes

Cherrypaw: Reddish-brown she-cat with silvery white underbelly ,

tail , ears and paws , a few ginger patches and blue eyes

Ripplepaw: Dark cream tabby tom with pale cream tabby stripes and pale amber eyes

Queens and kits:

Sunpelt: An orange tabby she-cat with a paler tail, paws, and chest. Blue eyes. Expecting Hailstorm's kits

Dewstep: Grey tabby she-cat with a pale grey underbelly. Green eyes. Expecting Owltalon's kits

Littlewhisper: Reddish tabby queen with white patches on her back and amber eyes. Expecting Aspenclaw's kits.

Volesong: Pale grey and golden she-cat with a white chest and paws, orange eyes. Mother of Sageblaze's kits:
Goldenkit: Golden shekit with green eyes
Thrushkit: Pale grey tomkit with white paws and orange eyes
Frogkit: Dark mottled grey tomkit with green

Elders:

Cats outside the Clans:

Chapter 1: Exiled?!

A/N: I don't own Warriors. Erin Hunter does. I just play with the characters.
" Speech"
Thoughts
' Flashback'

Mapleshade stared at Oakstar in disbelief after the leader had told her that she and her kits would be exiled from ThunderClan. " But... My kits are too young to travel far. " She tried to explain to the dark tom.

" I know that they are young but I will not raise the offspring of the murderer in MY Clan!" Oakstar hissed, sounding furious. He was referring to the father of Mapleshade's litter , Appledusk who had accidentally killed Oakstar's son Birchface during a battle on Sunningrocks.

' Mapleshade slashed at yet another RiverClan warrior, a dark orange she-cat . She yowled in pain when the tortoiseshell's claws ripped her fur. " That's what you get for trying to take our territory!" Mapleshade hissed, continuing to fight. At the corner of her eye, she saw a familiar pale brown tom fighting against a darker brown tabby. Suddenly the dark tabby slipped, falling into the river. " Nooo!" A young she-cat jumped into the water, trying to save her mentor. In the end, both of them had drowned. '

Mapleshade snapped out of her thoughts when her son, Patchkit padded to her, looking at her with wide fearful eyes. " What's going on, mama?" He asked, shaking slightly.

" We are leaving ThunderClan. " She replied, glaring at her former Clanmates.

" Leaving? Where we are going?" He asked, sounding confused.

" Away from here. " Mapleshade told him before fetching Petalkit

and Larchkit from the nursery and herding the kits out of the camp.

When they were in the forest, Petalkit stumbled slightly. " Where are we going, mama?" She asked, looking at her mother.

" We are going to meet your father" The queen replied.

" But... our father is from ThunderClan. He was Birchface, right? " Petalkit tried to argue.

" No. Do you remember that nice tom who helped Patchkit? He's your father, Appledusk and he's from RiverClan. " Mapleshade explained.

When they reached the river it had swollen up due to melting water.

" You have to climb on me to cross. Hold on tight " Mapleshade instructed her kits who did as she told.

O*h, StarClan. Let us cross the river safely,* Mapleshade prayed before wading into the water.

" Cold!" Mapleshade heard one of the kits screech when the water splashed on them. She tried to swim to the stepping stones but the current was too strong for her. *I can't make it. We will all drown*.

Suddenly she heard a commotion on the RiverClan side and heard several splashes as if the cats had entered the water. *Are they going to chase us away?*

One of the cats, a grey tabby, swam next to her. " What are you doing in the river with young kits? Do you want them to drown?" He inquired.

" We were.... exiled by... Oakstar" The tortoiseshell replied, having to stop the reply when the waves nearly crushed her against the rocks.

" Why would Oakstar exile a queen with kits? It's against the Warrior Code" The tom asked, looking shocked.

" I will explain if you help me to the shore. I have to speak with Darkstar" Mapleshade mewed, sounding nearly desperate now.

The tom nodded, helping her to the shore where three warriors waited for them. A pale brown tom with green eyes, a dark orange she-cat, and a pale grey tom.

" Appledusk, Reedshine, Splashfoot. " The darker grey tom addressed each of the warriors.

" Spiketail. And you are...? " The she-cat, Reedshine, asked looking at the tortoiseshell queen and her kits.

" Mapleshade. And the kits are Patchkit, Petalkit, and Larchkit, am I correct?" Appledusk replied, looking at each cat in question.

The queen nodded, shivering.

" What sent you to try to cross the river even though it's flooded?" Splashfoot asked.

" Oakstar ... He... he exiled us after Ravenwing had a vision of three pieces of reed that floated to RiverClan territory. He thought that it means that three cats did not belong in the Clan and that those cats were my kits. " Mapleshade explained.

" That still doesn't explain why you would try to cross the river. " Spiketail mewed sternly.

" It's because my kits are half RiverClan. I came to ask about the possibility to stay in RiverClan. " Mapleshade continued her explanation.

" What?! " Reedshine hissed , having now noticed how one of the kits was the same shade of pale brown as Appledusk.

" Yes, that's true. I'm their father. " The pale tom replied, looking at the kits warmly.

" But... I'm expecting your kits. I thought that we are mates. " The orange she-cat exclaimed.

" Let's get the kits and Mapleshade to the camp. They will get sick if they stay outside any longer. " Spiketail told the patrol firmly, not wanting the situation to get worse.

The patrol headed to RiverClan camp.
StarClan, help us. We won't survive without the help of a Clan.
Mapleshade thought .
A/N: What do you think? Should Darkstar accept them right away or not?

Chapter 2:Darkstar's decision

A/N: I don't own Warriors. Erin Hunter does. I just play with the characters.
" Speech"
Thoughts
' Flashback'

Mapleshade followed the patrol to the RiverClan camp. She tried to keep her fur flat but couldn't help but bristle because she was in enemy territory.

As the group squeezed through the reeds, Mapleshade could feel her kits tremble because they were soaked and cold. *They need to get warm.They will catch whitecough or greencough otherwise.*

She noticed how the dark grey tom who had helped her from the river headed into one of the dens. *That must be the leader's den.* The den was built of willow stems and woven into the roots of an ancient willow tree.

As Mapleshade waited for the cats to come back she noticed how some of the warriors had emerged from the den and were now looking at her and her kits with distrustful expressions. *Do they really think that a lone queen with young kits would be a threat to their Clan?*

After a few moments, she noticed that the grey tom and a black she-cat were padding toward her and her kits.

After that the black she-cat jumped atop of a pile of rocks that were surrounded by a small stream. " Let all cats old enough to swim gather for a Clan meeting!" She yowled the call which caused the Clan to gather around.

Mapleshade noticed how the grey tom had sat under the rocks, his eyes sweeping over the gathered Clan. She also noticed a white she-cat with peculiar markings, who had a strong scent of herbs on her.

She must be the medicine cat.

Darkstar looked at Mapleshade and her kits intently before starting the meeting.

" Earlier today, when Spiketail was leading the border patrol they noticed a cat struggling to swim in the flooded river. The cat in question was Mapleshade. When Spiketail swam over to help her he noticed that she had three kits with her. He asked her why she would try to cross the river when it was flooding, especially with kits. She replied that they were exiled by Oakstar. " The she-cat told her Clan, who gasped at the thought of exiling a queen with young kits.

" The reason for the exile was apparently that she had taken a mate from RiverClan which had infuriated Oakstar. " Darkstar contained, glancing at Appledusk at the end of her explanation.

Appledusk nodded , feeling the glares of his Clanmates, especially Reedshine's. " I haven't seen Mapleshade in moons. We broke up after she had found out she was expecting, because she wanted to raise the kits alone. " He tried to tell the Clan.

Reedshine hissed at him, looking furious. " You told me that I'm the only one you loved!" The dark orange queen hissed.

" Reedshine, calm down. If you are enraged it could harm the kits you are carrying. " The medicine cat told the queen, trying to get the situation under control.

Reedshine hissed but didn't do anything else than glare at Appledusk and Mapleshade.

Darkstar waited until the situation was over before continuing. " Spiketail and I have decided that Mapleshade and her kits can stay in RiverClan at least until the kits are apprenticed. I would never exile a queen and kits if I could avoid it because the Warrior Code says that you have to help a kit in need, no matter what Clan they originate from or even if they aren't a Clan cat. "

" After the apprenticeship ceremony for your kits, you have to

spend at least two moons doing apprentice duties. When it's over we can assess your capabilities as a warrior of RiverClan to see how well you have learned the skills you need to be a part of our Clan. " The leader addressed Mapleshade now.

The queen dipped her head, showing respect to the black she-cat. " I accept your decision, Darkstar. Thank you for your kindness. "

After the meeting was over the white she-cat Mapleshade had noticed before padded over to her and her kits. " I am Bristleflight, I'm the medicine cat of RiverClan. " She introduced herself.

Mapleshade nodded. " Do you think that my kits would need any herbs before feeding?" The queen asked.

" I can give them a checkup." Bristleflight nodded.

Mapleshade herded her kits to the medicine cat den ,where Bristleflight gave her kits a checkup. " They are obviously cold after the crossing of the river. Lick them the wrong way to warm them up. " The medicine cat told Mapleshade who did just that.

I hope that we will get accepted into RiverClan.

A/N: Their life in the new Clan has just started. What do you think? Should Reedshine cause problems for Mapleshade and her kits?

Chapter 3: Adjusting to the new Clan

A/N: I don't own Warriors. Erin Hunter does. I just play with the characters.

" Speech"
Thoughts
' Flashback'

A couple of sunrises later Mapleshade was sitting in a spot of sunlight in front of the RiverClan nursery while watching her kits playing with a moss ball. *They have adjusted to life here better than I expected. They are soon swimming as if they would have done it their whole lives.* She thought remembering a swimming session the day before.

' Mapleshade padded out of the nursery, her kits tumbling around her. The queen headed to the fresh kill pile, choosing a small minnow. After eating she looked at her kits who were now tussling with each other. " We are having a swimming lesson today. If you want to be real RiverClan cats you have to learn to how to swim. I do too. " She explained to the trio who squealed in excitement.

" Like we did in the ThunderClan territory?" Patchkit asked, his tail twitching with the excitement he was feeling.

Mapleshade nodded. " Sort of. This time you will learn it in more shallow water than the river. " She explained, leading the kits to a small puddle near the nursery. She watched as the trio pawed the water, squealing with excitement. What she didn't notice were two apprentices and their mentors who were watching the family.

" It seems like Appledusk's ThunderClan mate tries to make her kits RiverClan by teaching them how to swim. I'm sure that they'd drown if the water was even slightly deeper than it is. " One of the apprentices, a tortoiseshell she-cat hissed to the tom beside her who

nodded.

" Yeah, I think so too. " He nodded, glaring at the kits.

" Schorchpaw. Perchpaw. Behave yourself. " Appledusk hissed at the apprentices, his eyes boring into the two , especially his own apprentice, Perchpaw.

The siblings didn't react to the comment in any way. They just continued to glare at Mapleshade and her kits.

Appledusk hissed slightly at the two. " Today we will go over the water fighting moves. " He told the pair, who now looked at him, seemingly excited.

Mapleshade kept watching over her kits who were now splashing around in the shallow pool. '

The tortoiseshell and white queen snapped out of her thoughts when she heard a pained yowl coming from the nursery. *That sounded like Patchkit.*

She rushed into the nursery, looking around for her son." Patchkit. What happened? Are you hurt?" She mewed worriedly, sniffing at the orange and white kit that was trembling like a leaf in the wind.

Patchkit shook his head at his mother's question. " I saw a dream. . In it I was near the Sunningrocks and there was a fight going on. I heard a voice yowl " Murderers! You will pay for what you did for ThunderClan!" Then I saw how a big dark brown tom attacked a patrol of RiverClan cats , including a grey tom who i think is the deputy . He was one of the cats who got hurt the worst. Then when the patrol got back , I heard a horrible screech coming from the nursery. I think it was Frostfall." He explained , shaking.

The tom he saw in the dream must have been Spiketail. He's the mate of Frostfall. Is it possible that Patchkit had a vision? What if it comes true? Spiketail is the deputy of RiverClan, he's too important to lose, Mapleshade thought.

She purred reassuringly to her son. " It wasn't real. You just imagined it. You are safe here. "

Patchkit relaxed, burrowing his head into his mother's side. Mapleshade purred , falling asleep herself.

A/N: What do you think? Should Patchkit's vision come true one way or another?

Chapter 4: Birchfoot's tale (and Reedshine's kits)

A/N: I don't own Warriors. Erin Hunter does. I just play with the characters.

" Speech"
Thoughts
' Flashback'

Mapleshade was watching her kits play with Frostfall's litter. *At least Frostfall and her kits aren't judging us due to our ThunderClan origin .*

Her thoughts were interrupted by a hiss coming from her right side.

" What is your Dark Forest spawn doing with the deputy's kits?" A young warrior named Dawnfang hissed at her.

" They are just playing. Nothing more. And her kits were half-RiverClan, to begin with. Now they will grow up into loyal RiverClan warriors. " Frostfall scolded the cream and white she-cat.

Dawnfang scoffed. " Loyal? Those kits don't even know what that word means!" She hissed.

" Are you mewing about my kits or Mapleshade's?" Frostfall asked.

" Hers, of course. Your kits are the offspring of the two most loyal cats RiverClan has ever known. " Dawnfang replied.

Frostfall eyed the cream and white warrior, not mewing a word before walking over to Mapleshade.

" Don't listen to them. They haven't gotten used to your kits yet but they will soon. " The white queen mewed.

Mapleshade nodded.

" I know that. " She told Frostfall, continuing to watch the kits play around the camp.

Later that day when Mapleshade was eating a minnow she noticed Appledusk padding to her, followed by his apprentice, Perchpaw.

The pale brown tom looked at her with contempt in his green gaze.

" I don't understand why Darkstar would make the mistake of taking you and your kits to our Clan. " He told the tortoiseshell queen.

" What are you mewing about?! They are your kits, too" Mapleshade protested.

" Those poor scraps of fur aren't mine. They will never be. Do you understand me? " Appledusk hissed at her.

" Reedshine is the only queen with my kits. They will not be kin of any kind to your kits. " The tom continued.

Mapleshade stared at him with wide eyes. She couldn't find her voice. *Does this mean that... Do I have to raise my kits alone? Why would Appledusk be so cruel to me?*

Unbeknownst to the pair, their conversation was witnessed by someone. One of the warriors, a dark brown and white tabby tom named Birchfoot. *Why Appledusk would first claim that her kits are his and the next time he has a conversation with her tells her the opposite? Doesn't he understand that Mapleshade has no support in RiverClan, mostly because of his actions?*

Birchfoot emerged from the warriors den, padding over to the distraught queen.

" I heard what Appledusk told you. I can help you with your kits if you want me to. " He told her.

Mapleshade eyed the dark warrior warily. *Is he genuine with the offer or not?* She thought.

After a moment she nodded. " I'd be grateful for that. Raising three kits alone is no easy task. "

Birchfoot nodded. " I know that. My mother had to raise me and my siblings alone after our father drowned when the ice broke while he was hunting on it. " He told her.

' Birchkit was sleeping in the nursery, bundled up with his sisters, Nettlekit and Cedarkit. The kits were nearly the age of apprentices, having just about a moon or two to go before the ceremony.

The father of the kits, a white tom with a few dark brown speckles and blue eyes, called Blizzardheart was on a hunting patrol near the frozen river with a few of his Clanmates.

Suddenly, the ice gave way under the weight of the white warrior. It wasn't as strong as it should have been due to a current beneath it. Blizzardheart let out a warning yowl but it was too late for the other patrol members to save him. He drowned in the river, being sucked under by the current.

Birchkit and his siblings woke up to the pained screech of their mother, a russet-colored she-cat with white paws and orange eyes named Redstep.

" Blizzardheart!! No! StarClan, please, don't take him from me now! Our kits need him!" The queen yowled while nudging the lifeless body of her mate.

The kits padded over to her, staring at the body of their father with wide and fearful eyes. '

Birchfoot's memories were shattered by a pained screech from the nursery. *Is that Reedshine? She was at least a half moon ahead of Nettlecloud.*

Appledusk raced to the nursery, his fur fluffed up with worry. His green eyes were fixed on his mate who was laying on her nest, spasms wracking through her body.

" The...kits.. are coming... now!" Reedshine panted.

Appledusk sprinted now to the medicine cat den where Bristleflight was organizing herbs needed for kitting.

" Go to fetch wet moss for her. She will be thirsty after delivering your kits. " the medicine cat ordered him.

Appledusk nodded before doing the task.

Mapleshade herded the six kits out of the nursery so they wouldn't disturb the medicine cat when she worked.

" But mama, I want to help Bristlelight! " Patchkit protested.

" No, Patchkit, you'd be in the way. Go to play with your siblings and friends and try to stay out of way while Bristleflight helps Reedshine's kits come into the world. It's one of the things a medicine cat does. " Mapleshade told her son gently.

Patchkit stared at the nursery entrance with wide eyes.

" Doesn't that mean that the kits are related to us since their father is also Appledusk?" Petalkit asked.

" Yes, they technically are. But I don't want you to spend time with them, otherwise Reedshine or Appledusk will have my pelt." Mapleshade replied.

After what felt like forever of yowling and screeching coming from the nursery, Bristleflight emerged, padding over to Appedusk.

" Congratulations, Appledusk. You have a son and two daughters. Reedshine told me that she'd want your help to name them " The medicine cat told him.

Appledusk nodded, padding into the nursery. He immediately noticed his real mate, laying in her nest with three tiny kits in the curve of her belly.

" What do you want to call them?" Reedshine asked, purring.

" How about Willowkit for the grey she-kit?" He suggested, looking at the kit in question.

" I think the pale brown shekit should be called Honeykit" Reedshine told him purring.

" What about the tomkit?" Appledusk asked, looking at the kit who was nearly a spitting image of his father.

" Lightkit , because it's the opposite of dusk " Reedshine purred.

" Welcome to RiverClan, Willowkit, Honeykit and Lightkit" Appedusk purred.

Mapleshade had heard the conversation because she had been near the nursery. *That should have been me and Appledusk. Not Reedshine and Appledusk!* , She thought, seething.

A/N: Honeykit was named Shykit (Later Shyheart) and Lightkit was named Applekit (After Appledusk, his warrior name being Applefrost) in Warriors Wiki but none of Reedshine x Appledusk kits has made a physical appearance in the books, they have been only mentioned, and their names aren't revealed in the books, at least to my knowledge.

Chapter 5: Battle and ceremonies

A/N: I don't own Warriors. Erin Hunter does. I just play with the characters.

" Speech"
Thoughts, *dreams*
' Flashback'

Mapleshade was sitting near the nursery while watching her kits play again with Swankit, Heronkit and Mintkit. The six kits had gotten rather close to each other and spent nearly all their time together, playing or getting into trouble.
Thank StarClan for Frostfall , Birchfoot, Cedarstep and Nettlecloud. Those four are on my side even if most of the Clan isn't. All because of Appledusk and Reedshine spreading lies.

The dark brown and white tom had told what he had heard Appledusk tell Mapleshade to his sisters, Nettlecloud and Cedarstep who agreed with him that Mapleshade and her kits needed support in their new Clan. Nettlecloud was rather vocal with it , hissing and glaring at Appledusk whenever the pale brown tom visited the nursery, showing Reedshine's three kits that were now about half moon old, affection and love while ignoring Mapleshade's litter.
It's like he thinks that my kits don't exist.

Frostfall padded out of the den, looking at the kits. She purred at the sight of them having fun. " They are growing up so fast. " The white queen mewed, still purring.

Mapleshade nodded. " They are. "

Frostfall noticed the three older apprentices, Perchpaw , Scorchpaw and Vixenpaw pad into the camp, looking rather proud of themselves. *Their warrior assessments will be soon. I wonder what names Darkstar will choose for them.*

" I can't wait to have my first battle as a warrior. Especially if it's against foxhearted ThunderClanners. " Vixenpaw mewed, sounding excited at the thought of ripping into the enemy warriors.

" Yeah. We will be the best warriors RiverClan has ever seen. " Perchpaw nodded, lashing his grey tail.

Mapleshade noticed the way the ginger apprentice had glanced at her kits when she mentioned " Foxhearted ThunderClanners. " *Does she think that I'd train my kits to attack their Clanmates because I was originally from ThunderClan?* She thought, a small hiss escaping from her mouth.

Vixenpaw nodded enthusiastically. " Yeah, we will. There's no doubt about that. " She purred.

Scorchpaw nodded. " ThunderClan better beware of our claws and fangs!" She yowled, her tortoiseshell pelt bristling with excitement.

Later that day Mapleshade was sharing tongues with Birchfoot when she heard enraged-sounding yowls and screeching coming from the direction of the Sunningrocks. *What's going on? Did a patrol get attacked by something?*

After a few heartbeats, she heard hurried paw steps approaching the camp, and soon enough, rather scratched up looking Toadpaw, a light brown and white tom with amber eyes, who was one of the younger apprentices burst through the reed tunnel, panting slightly. He seemed to be the messenger or something. " ThunderClan... Attacked us... At Sunningrocks. Need reinforcements! " He yowled, getting the attention of Spiketail, who nodded in agreement before quickly assembling a battle patrol consisting of Birchfoot, Milkfur, Vixenpaw, Appledusk, Perchpaw, Dawnfang, Hawkfang and Scorchpaw. *All great warriors and the older apprentices.* Mapleshade thought, noticing how a young black she-cat with green eyes was looking at the patrol with a longing expression.

" What's wrong, Hollypaw? " Mapleshade heard the kind voice of Nettlecloud ask from the apprentice.

" I wasn't chosen to be a part of the patrol, even though I'm only

about three moons away from my warrior ceremony. I'm as good as they are. " The black she-cat told the speckled queen while glancing at the three siblings who were nearly bristling with excitement.

" I know that you are a good fighter but I think that Darkstar doesn't want any more apprentices on the patrol. Besides one of them might have to act as a messenger in case they need more reinforcements. There will be more battles. You will get a chance to show Darkstar that you have earned your warrior name. " Nettlecloud mewed, trying to placate the apprentice who seemed to be slightly upset still.

" But... " Hollypaw tried to argue with Nettlecloud who gave her a look that said " no buts".

As the patrol left Hollypaw sighed, looking after them with a forlorn expression.

Mapleshade padded over to her. " You will get your chance as Nettlecloud told you. I remember feeling the same way when I was around your age and the older apprentices would have a chance to go to fight against a badger and I didn't. " The tortoiseshell and white queen told her, recalling the event.

' Maplepaw padded out of the apprentice's den, blinking in the sunlight. She noticed that her mentor, Bloomheart was having a conversation with the deputy, Beetail who seemed slightly worried about something. *What is going on? Why would Beetail be worried about something?*

She overheard the dark brown tabby mention a badger that was seen near the border.

Bloomheart nodded. " I'd be honored to be a part of the patrol. " The grey tom mewed.

" I'll arrange the patrol soon. The faster we get rid of the badger the better. " Beetail nodded.

Maplepaw's eyes gleamed with excitement at the thought of fighting

against a badger beside her mentor and Clanmates. *I'll show that badger that it can't mess with ThunderClan!*

Soon after his conversation with Bloomheart Beetail had arranged the patrol. Maplepaw let out a small hiss of jealousy when she noticed that instead of her Beetail had chosen Frecklepaw and Birchpaw. *I think they got chosen only because their father happens to be the Clan leader.* '

Mapleshade was shaken awake from her memories by Hollypaw's mew. " Really? How did it go? Did the older apprentices earn their names because of it?" The young she-cat mewed in rapid succession.

" They managed to drive the badger away but the older apprentices didn't get their names after that fight. They earned them after their assessments. " Mapleshade replied.

Hollypaw looked surprised. " Really? I would have thought that they'd get their names after something like that. "

Mapleshade shook her head. " They didn't. Apparently because neither of them really fought the badger, or that's what I heard one of their mentors complain to one of the other warriors about after they had returned to the camp. "

Hollypaw let out a small " mrow" of laughter. " That must have stung them. "

Mapleshade nodded. " It definitely did. They were at odds with their mentors for the last moon of their apprenticeship. "

The black apprentice nodded, purring. " I believe that. "

After some time the patrol got back, looking beaten up yet victorious. Especially the three apprentices appeared to be pleased with themselves.

Mapleshade watched the patrol closely, noticing that one of the cats with the worst injuries was the deputy, Spiketail. *He seems to be hurt quite a bit.*

Frostfall yowled in alarm when she saw the state of her mate.

" What happened to you?! Who did this?" The white queen mewed, licking his wounds carefully while the grey tom explained what had happened.

" The biggest reason for my wounds is the freckled she-cat with amber eyes. I don't remember her name but she attacked me after I had saved Vixenpaw from being clawed by her. Then after I had managed to fight her off Oakstar himself decided to face me. He bit my shoulder, not too deeply, thank StarClan" the deputy explained while his mate continued to fuss around him.

Mapleshade overheard the conversation. " Freckled she-cat with amber eyes, you say? That's Frecklewish. She's Oakstar's daughter. " She told Spiketail, trying not to spit the name out with disgust.

Suddenly the chatter of the Clan was broken by a yowl from Darkstar. The leader called the Clan meeting. Perchpaw, Scorchpaw and Vixenpaw perked up, with hopeful expressions.

" We won the Sunningrocks again from ThunderClan. The win wasn't easy but we did it. Especially our three older apprentices fought bravely and they have more than earned their warrior names. Perchpaw, Scorchpaw and Vixenpaw. Step forward. " The trio stepped in front of the leader before Darkstar turned to look at each of them in turn. " I , Darkstar, the leader of RiverClan, call upon my warrior ancestors to look down on these apprentices. They have trained hard to understand the ways of your noble Code and I commend them as warriors in their turn. "

After that the black she-cat looked at Perchpaw , asking : "Perchpaw, do you promise to uphold the warrior code and to protect and defend your Clan even at the cost of your life?"

The grey tom nodded. " I do. "

" Then by the powers of StarClan, I give you your warrior name. Perchpaw, from this moment on you will be known as Perchpelt. StarClan honors your bravery and dedication and we welcome you as a full warrior of RiverClan. " Darkstar continued before placing her muzzle on the newly named Perchpelt's head and the new warrior licked her shoulder.

After that Darkstar repeated the process with Scorchpaw and Vixenpaw, naming them Scrochheart and Vixenfang.

" Perchpelt! Scorchheart! Vixenfang! Perchpelt! Scorchheart! Vixenfang!" The Clan cheered the names of the three new warriors who seemed extremely pleased with themselves.

Mapleshade cheered but nowhere near as energetically as the parents of the new warriors, a black and silver tabby she-cat named Eeltail and a red tom named Scaleclaw.

Now that the older apprentices are warriors Appledusk has no reason to stop visiting the nursery multiple times a day. Mapleshade thought, her lip curling at the thought.

Suddenly there was a pained screech from the nursery. *Was that Nettlecloud? Are her kits coming?* Mapleshade padded into the nursery, noticing that the speckled queen was indeed starting to kit. She was looking anxious.

" Don't worry, Nettlecloud. You will meet your kits soon. " Mapleshade tried to calm her down.

Nettlecloud hissed when a painful spasm hit her. " I know that, but why does kitting have to hurt so much?"

After that Mapleshade poked her head out of the den to see where Bristleflight was. She noticed the medicine cat near her den. " Bristleflight.Nettlecloud's kitting. "

The medicine cat nodded, before gathering up the herbs she needed and padding over to the den. Mapleshade ushered the kits out of the nursery so they wouldn't be in Bristleflight's way.

" But mama! I want to help her, please! " Patchkit protested. The orange and white tomkit had gotten quite a fascination with the medicine cat's work. *Maybe he'll become her apprentice.*

" Is everything going well?" Mapleshade heard the mate of Nettlecloud , a pale grey tom named Splashfoot mew as he paced around the camp nervously.

" Everything is going fine. " Mapleshade nodded, purring reassuringly.

A/N: If you are interested in helping with naming kits ,check out my " name the kit" book. One of the litters in it is the aforementioned Nettlecloud x Splashfoot.

Chapter 6: Reedshine's accusations

A/N: I don't own Warriors. Erin Hunter does. I just play with the characters.

" Speech"
Thoughts, dreams
' Flashback'

Mapleshade was curled up in her nest with her kits beside her in a pile of brown, orange, and white. The trio had been playing with Nettlecloud's moon old kits and were exhausted because of it. *Snowkit, Blizzardkit and Pebblekit can be rather rowdy sometimes. And they are more energetic than you'd think.*

As the tortoiseshell and white queen dozed off she didn't notice the fact that Reedshine was watching her kits with a rather hateful expression on her face. *I still can't believe that I have to share a den with her and her half-Clan spawn. At least she now knows that her kits aren't Appledusk's. They have no father.*

Later that day Mapleshade was washing herself in front of the nursery when she saw Reedshine padding out of the den with Honeykit, Lightkit and Willowkit bounding around her paws.

Reedshine saw Mapleshade and hissed slightly. The dark orange queen looked furious but kept her cool. *How dares she act as if she belongs in RiverClan? She doesn't, and never will.*

Mapleshade ignored the dark orange she-cat by looking around the camp as if she'd be looking for someone.

After a couple of heartbeats, Mapleshade saw Birchfoot emerging from the reed tunnel, his fur sleek with water, carrying a few minnows in his jaws. *He must have been hunting. I still have no idea how to fish even though I have been a part RiverClan for the moon and*

a half, almost two.

The dark brown and white tabby purred, noticing Mapleshade.

" How are you? Have the kits behaved?" He asked, flicking his tail in greeting.

Mapleshade purred, replying. " I'm fine. And yes, they have if you mean my kits. "

Birchfoot nodded, still purring. " That's good to hear. Have you eaten yet?" He asked.

Mapleshade shook her head. " Not yet. "

" Would you like to share prey with me?" He asked, pointing to a carp in the fresh kill pile with his tail.

Mapleshade nodded. " Carp is the favorite of my kits. Especially Larchkit likes it. "

Birchfoot purred,nodding. " I see. "

As the dark brown and white tabby took the fish from the pile, Mapleshade noticed that one of the apprentices, a light brown and white tom called Toadpaw was staring at her. The young cat had a look of disgust on his face.

Mapleshade noticed that Toadpaw was flanked by one of the new warriors, Perchpelt who sneered at her.

The tortoiseshell and white queen ignored the apprentice and the newly minted warrior, padding over to Birchfoot while purring.

As the white and brown tom took a bite of the carp he noticed Perchpelt and Toadpaw glaring at Mapleshade. *She has done nothing to them, yet they treat her like has a greencough or something. Is it because she is originally from ThunderClan or that Appledusk was the mentor of Perchpelt? Or even both?*

Mapleshade took a bite of the fish, unaware of his thoughts. She enjoyed moments like this because it made her feel like she

belonged in RiverClan.

After eating her fill Mapleshade took a piece of the carp and gave it to her kits who clambered over to her, tails flicking with excitement.

" Carp! It's my favorite!" Larchkit mewed, his amber eyes shining excitedly while Petalkit moved toward the piece of prey with a more cautious expression.

" Why do we have to always eat smelly, slimy fish? Why can't we have a nice, juicy mouse?" Petalkit asked, eyeing the carp piece with a bit of revulsion.

Mapleshade purred at the question of her only daughter. " Because we aren't ThunderClan cats anymore, little one. We are RiverClan cats now and RiverClan warriors eat fish. Don't you want to be a great warrior someday?"

Petalkit nodded, bouncing excitedly. " Yeah, I want! But I don't want to eat only fish. It's icky and slimy. "

Mapleshade purred. " I know that you don't like fish, little one, but to become a great warrior of RiverClan you have to eat it, even a little bit. Can you do that for me?"

Petalkit nodded, taking a small bite of the carp. After quickly swallowing the piece she took another one.

" Good, Petalkit. " Mapleshade purred.

Patchkit had eaten his share and after that, he padded over to Mapleshade.

" If I eat more fish than both Petalkit and Larchkit together does it mean that I'm the best warrior? But I don't like fighting, 'cause it hurts. " He asked, flicking his tail nervously at the thought.

Mapleshade purred. " I know that you don't like fighting, Patchkit. But remember that there are more ways to serve your Clan, like being a medicine cat. You seem to be interested in herbs and the techniques used by Bristleflight, am I right? "

Patchkit nodded excitedly. " Yeah! I hope that once we get our apprentice names that she'd be my mentor! But I'm not sure if would she take me as one."

Mapleshade purred at his excitement. " Have you spoken to her about it? I'm sure she'd love to have an apprentice who is as easy to train as you are."

Patchkit shook his head. " No, I haven't, mama. Should I do it? "

Mapleshade nodded, purring. " If you really want to train as a medicine cat, then yes, you should. "

Patchkit jumped up and down excitedly at the thought of really becoming a medicine cat. " Yes, I wanna train as a medicine cat! I will be the bestest medicine cat anyone has ever seen and heal every cat that needs help!"

Mapleshade purred at his excitement. " I'm sure you will, little one. "

Later that day when Mapleshade was watching her kits play Nettlecloud's and Frostfall's she noticed that Reedshine's kits were playing amongst themselves. *She never lets her kits play with the others, because she thinks that her kits are better than mine and that Frostfall and Nettlecloud shouldn't let their kits play with my litter. Even though Frostfall is mates with the deputy, Reedshine falsely thinks that she's the most important queen in RiverClan.*

As Mapleshade was watching the kits toss a moss ball around she noticed that the young cream and white warrior called Dawnfang was watching her, eyes narrow. *Does she think that I'd hurt the kits? I'd never do that! I'm a queen after all.*

After that, she saw how Dawnfang padded over to Reedshine, whispering something into the dark orange she-cat while glancing at Mapleshade. Reedshine hissed before launching herself at Mapleshade.

" How dare you try to flirt with MY mate?! Appledusk is mine and only mine! " Reedshine yowled, her blue eyes blazing with hatred as

she clawed Mapleshade's cheek, causing a few drops of blood to well up onto the surface.

What is she mewing about? I haven't exchanged a word with Appledusk since he told me that my kits aren't his. Does she have bees in her brain? Mapleshade thought feeling confused about the situation.

As Reedshine raised her paw to strike again Mapleshade heard a voice of a tom yowling " Reedshine! Stop at this instant!" which caused the dark orange queen to spin around, coming face to face with the deputy, Spiketail who was looking at her with appalled expression.

" What on StarClan caused you to attack a Clanmate,Reedshine? A fellow queen no less. " Spiketail asked her.

" Dawnfang told me that she had seen Mapleshade trying to flirt with Appledusk multiple times when I haven't noticed. " Reedshine hissed, her fur bristling at the thought.

Mapleshade shook her head. " That's not true. I haven't spoken to him in a moon and a half. " *After he told me that he doesn't consider my kits as his.*

Reedshine hissed, spitting. " She's lying! I know that!"

" Mapleshade isn't lying. She really hasn't spoken to Appledusk. " Nettlecloud told the deputy as she padded over to the group, her kits hot on her heels.

" Mama, what's going on?" Patchkit mewed from the entrance of the nursery, his fur fluffed up in alarm at the tense atmosphere.

" Nothing, little one. Mama just had a talk with Reedshine. " The tortoiseshell and white queen purred, trying to calm herself down.

Patchkit didn't seem to be convinced by his mother's explanation. " Why then do you have blood on your cheek, mama? "

" I just scratched myself by accident. " She replied, purring.

Patchkit nodded, purring. " I see. "

Later that night Mapleshade was sharing tongues with Birchfoot when they heard Darkstar call a Clan meeting.

As the Clan gathered under the rock the leader sat on Mapleshade saw that Reedshine was sitting in front of the rock, glaring at the leader like a petulant kit. *Looks like Darkstar gave her an ear-chewing,* Mapleshade thought, trying not to purr.

When the Clan had finally gathered Darkstar spoke. " I heard that earlier today Reedshine attacked Mapleshade unprovoked. Reedshine, do you have anything to say about it?" The black she-cat asked the queen who kept quiet for a heartbeat before hissing " I still think she's lying just to save her own pelt. "

" You know that attacking a Clanmate is against the Code. As punishment for doing so, you have to perform apprentice duties at the camp for a half moon. If you repeat the attack the punishment will be doubled. " The leader mewed before dismissing the Clan. As the Clan got back to whatever they were doing before the meeting Mapleshade saw from the corner of her eye Appledusk glaring at her. *Does he think that I was the one who told Darkstar about the attack?*

A/N: How do you think Reedshine will perform her duties? The reason why Darkstar excluded her from patrols and hunting is that she's a queen and needs to take care of her kits. Also, what do you think will be Appledusk's reaction to his mate's punishment?

Chapter 7: Apprenticeship ceremonies

A/N: I don't own Warriors. Erin Hunter does. I just play with the characters.

Mapleshade was washing herself in front of the nursery when she noticed that Birchfoot was approaching her. The dark brown and white tabby tom had become an important part of Mapleshade's and her kit's new life in RiverClan during the past three and half moons. *He's a dear friend to me. So are his sisters, especially Nettlecloud, because we are both queens.*

Birchfoot looked at her, purring. *I still can't believe that Darkstar would give a cat from ThunderClan a place in RiverClan, but I'm glad she did. Especially because Mapleshade and her kits have gotten used to life in RiverClan. They have even learned how to swim.*

' Birchfoot padded out of the warrior's den, purring as he saw the kits of Frostfall and Mapleshade run around the camp, chasing a moss ball while his nephews watched the older kits with wide eyes from the entrance of the nursery with their mother.

When Pebblekit, Snowkit and Blizzardkit noticed him they ran over, bouncing around his paws excitedly.

" Calm down, kits. Do not bother your uncle too much. " Nettlecloud purred, looking at her sons.

" It's good to see that they have energy. " Birchfoot replied, purring as the trio tussled with each other in a ball of white, grey, and russet.

Nettlecloud nodded, purring. " Sometimes it feels like they have too much of it. "

Mapleshade had overheard the conversation and padded over to

them, purring. " Have they learned how to swim yet? Maybe it could give them an opportunity to burn off some of the excess energy they have. "

Nettlecloud shook her head. " Not yet, they are only a moon and a half after all. Usually, RiverClan kits will start learning how to swim when they are around two moons old. "

The former ThunderClan queen nodded. " I see. I was thinking that maybe one of you could teach me and my kits how to properly swim, because none of us really knows how to do it. "

Birchfoot nodded, purring. " Of course, I can. When would you like to start? "

" How about tomorrow at sunhigh? I'd like to start it soon. " Mapleshade suggested, the tip of her tail twitching slightly with the nervousness she was feeling about being in the water again.

Bramblefoot nodded, purring. " Sounds great. "

The next day Birchfoot padded into the nursery, only to be met by a barrage of kits storming towards him. Larchkit, Patchkit , Petalkit, Snowkit, Pebblekit, and Blizzardkit crowded around his paws, chattering excitedly.

" Are you really going to take us swimming?" Patchkit asked, his tail twitching with excitement at the thought of being like a real RiverClan cat.

Birchfoot nodded, purring. " Yes, I am. Now, remember to listen to your mother and me closely. " He mewed before leading Mapleshade and her kits toward a shallow part of the river that was used for teaching the kits how to swim.

As Mapleshade got closer to the river she tensed slightly, with a flash of fear in her amber eyes. " What if something goes wrong and one of them gets hurt?" She mewed worriedly.

" Don't worry about it, this part of the river is shallow and safe for kits their age. Go on, try wading through it. " He purred, watching as the tortoiseshell queen padded into the shallow water where her

kits were already splashing around. '

Birchfoot was snapped out of his thoughts by Mapleshade's question.

" When do you think Darkstar will hold the apprentice ceremony for my kits?" She repeated the question, looking at him.

" Probably soon. Your kits are nearly six moons after all. Have you thought about which of the warriors should be their mentors?" He asked, purring.

Mapleshade nodded. " Yes, I have. Patchkit will be apprenticed to Bristleflight because he wants to be a medicine cat. For Petalkit and Larchkit Sunblaze and Shellsong respectively. " *Because they have been good to me and my kits, Shellsong even told Dawnfang off for spreading the rumors about me and Appledusk.*

Birchfoot nodded. " Those are good choices. Sunblaze may seem intimidating but he's actually an easygoing tom who hasn't had an apprentice yet. Neither has Shellsong, but I know that she'd love to train at least one apprentice. "

Mapleshade nodded. " That's why I thought they'd be good choices. "

About half a moon later Darkstar called a Clan meeting. " As all of you know, Mapleshade and her kits have lived in RiverClan for about four moons now. If you remember, when I took them in, I told Mapleshade that she'd have at least two moons period of apprentice duties after her kits were apprenticed. That day has come now. " The black she-cat mewed, before turning her amber gaze towards the trio of kits who nearly bounced in place due to excitement they were feeling.

"Patchkit, Larchkit and Petalkit. You have reached the age of six moons and it's time for you to be apprenticed. From this day on, until you get your warrior names you will be known as Patchpaw, Larchpaw and Petalpaw. Patchpaw, your mentor will be Bristleflight. I hope Bristleflight will pass down all she knows to you. " The leader mewed before turning towards the medicine cat ,

who touched her nose with Patchpaw's, meowing " Don't worry, little one. You will have a medicine cat apprentice ceremony the next half-moon when we will have a meeting. " Patchpaw nodded, shaking with excitement.

Darkstar nodded, purring before, continuing the ceremony. " Larchpaw, your mentor will be Shellsong. I hope Shellsong will pass down all she knows to you. " The leader mewed before turning towards the chocolate tortoiseshell she-cat with amber eyes.

" Shellsong, you are ready to take on an apprentice. You have received excellent training from Icefur and you have shown yourself to be patient and understanding. You will be the mentor of Larchpaw and I except you to pass down all you know to Larchpaw. " The black leader mewed before letting the warrior touch noses with her newly minted apprentice.

" I'll make you an excellent warrior, I promise. " Shellsong told him, purring.

After that Darkstar apprenticed Petalpaw to Sunblaze, a fluffy golden tabby tom with green eyes.

" Patchpaw! Larchpaw! Petalpaw! Patchpaw! Larchpaw! Petalpaw! " The Clan cheered as was the custom.

" Now, we have one ceremony left. " Darkstar mewed, looking at Mapleshade, who looked back at her with a mixture of curiosity, expectancy, and a hint of fear.

" Mapleshade, I know that you are a warrior but you have to learn some of the intricacies of RiverClan life. I will be your mentor. " The leader mewed before jumping down from the rock pile to touch noses with the tortoiseshell. " I will make sure that you will learn everything you need to know about life as a true RiverClan cat. I promise. " Darkstar told her, purring.

" I believe that. Thank you for giving me and my kits a chance, Darkstar. " Mapleshade mewed gratefully.

A/N: What do you think? Was it a surprise that Darkstar would

mentor Mapleshade, or did you guess it?

Chapter 8: Training , troubles and Patchpaw's ceremony

A/N: I don't own Warriors. Erin Hunter does. I just play with the characters.

" Speech"

Thoughts , dreams , visions

' Flashback'

The next day, Mapleshade was woken up in the warrior's den by some cat poking her with their claw.

" Mapleshade, wake up. It is time for your first training session. " She heard the voice of Darkstar mew. As the tortoiseshell and white she-cat opened her eyes she saw the face of the RiverClan leader half of a whisker length away from her face.

" Training? For what?" She asked.

" I'll teach you how to fish and possibly a few easy water fighting moves, since I know that you can swim. You got used to swimming surprisingly quickly for a drypaw. " The leader told her.

" Drypaw? What does that mean?" Mapleshade asked.

" Drypaw is a cat who doesn't like swimming. " Darkstar explained.

Mapleahade nodded. " I see. "

As the two cats padded closer to the river Mapleshade could feel the nervousness starting to settle in. *What if I can't catch any prey?*

Darkstar noticed the way Mapleshade eyed the waves lapping the shore.

" You will be fine. This part of the river is shallow so catching fish is easy even from the bank of the river and there are no strong currents that could suck you in. " The leader assured her.

As Mapleshade got closer to the river she could nearly feel the waves tugging at her fur, dragging her beneath the surface, away from her kits and the new life she knew. *No, it's not real! We are all safe in RiverClan! The river isn't flooding, because it hasn't rained recently.*

Darkstar waited patiently for the former queen to get her thoughts under control.

After calming down Mapleshade padded into the water, trying not to splash around.

" You are doing extremely well, for a former ThunderClan cat. " Darkstar purred.

Mapleshade nodded. " Birchfoot and his sisters have taught me and my kits how to swim. "

The leader purred. " I see. You seem to be close to them, and Hollymist. "

Mapleshade nodded, purring. "They are all good friends of mine. Especially Birchfoot. He's in a way a father figure for my kits. " *Who knows, maybe one day he will be more than that.*

After the hunt was over, Mapleshade managed to catch a few small minnows and a water vole. *That water vole was a lucky catch , because it would have hidden in its hole.*

As Mapleshade and Darkstar padded back into the camp Mapleshade noticed that Reedshine was glaring at her. *What is her problem?*

Later that day Mapleshade was sharing small carp with Birchfoot when she heard screeching coming from the path near the camp. *What is going on?*

After a few heartbeats Petalpaw ran into the clearing, her pale

brown fur fluffed up and yowling in pain which attracted the attention of Bristleflight.

" What happened to you? " The medicine cat asked the apprentice who didn't reply before her mentor, Sunblaze padded into the camp, and heard the question.

" She ran into a nest of ground wasps and got stung by a few of them. " The golden-furred tom explained to Bristleflight who nodded.

" Patchpaw, I will need blackberry leaves. Do you remember what they look and smell like?" The white and silver she-cat asked her new apprentice who nodded looking slightly unsure.

" I think so. They are the ones with serrated edges and a sweet scent, right?" Patchpaw asked.

" No, the leaves with serrated edges are raspberry leaves. Blackberry leaves have small ridges in them and have a sharp scent. " Bristleflight explained carefully to Patchpaw who nodded while listening intently.

" Now I remember them. They are near catmint, aren't they?"

Bristleflight nodded. " Yes, you are correct about that."

After Patchpaw had dashed into the medicine cat den and gotten back carrying the blackberry leaves Bristleflight had requested the white she-cat chewed the leaves into a pulp that she carefully applied onto Petalpaw's bee stings.

" There. That should help. If the pain gets worse , come to see me immediately, understood?" Bristleflight told Petalpaw, who nodded.

About a quarter moon later Patchpaw headed to the Mothermouth with Bristleflight.

" The medicine cat of ThunderClan, Ravenwing you already know. The medicine cat of WindClan is Larkwing,she's kind but has a bit of a sharp tongue. The medicine cat of ShadowClan is Sloefur, he may look like a kittypet with his fluffy fur but he's a forest-born

Clan cat through and through. " Bristleflight told him.

" Do any of them have an apprentice? " Patchpaw asked.

" No, none of them have one yet."

As the duo padded nearer Mothermouth Patchpaw thought he saw a trio of cats.

" Are those cats them?" He asked his tailtip twitching slightly with nervousness. *What if StarClan won't accept me as a medicine cat because of my Half-Clan blood?*

Bristleflight nodded after tasting the air. "Yes, they are waiting for us, it seems."

After a few heartbeats Patchpaw and Bristleflight got to the trio.

" Ravenwing, Sloefur, Larkwing. " Bristleflight acknowledged each of them with a tiny nod.

" Bristleflight , and who do you have with you?" The beautiful silver and black tabby she-cat , Larkwing asked , looking at Patchpaw with a curious expression.

" It can't be... Patchkit? I thought that your mother isn't a Clan cat anymore." A black tom with blue eyes who had a scent that Patchpaw thought was somewhat familiar. *He must be Ravenwing.*

" She's a RiverClan cat now. Darkstar gave a place in our Clan to her and her kits after your leader drove them away after finding out about who the kit's father was. Patchpaw is now my apprentice." Bristleflight told to Ravenwing firmly.

" Congratulations on becoming a medicine cat apprentice , Patchpaw. The role of the medicine cat is respected. " The third cat in the group, a long-haired black tom with blue eyes and a scent of pine sap on him told Patchpaw. *That must be Sloefur.*

After that, the group headed into the tunnel.

" This tunnel leads to the Moonstone. Follow my pawsteps and

you'll be fine. " Bristleflight murmured to Patchpaw who nodded, his tailtip twitching slightly with nervousness.

As the group headed into the tunnel Patchpaw stuck by his mentor, feeling the way with his whiskers instead of his sight.

After what felt like forever they got into a chamber with a massive stone.

" Is that... The Moonstone?" Patchpaw asked breathlessly, gazing at the stone.

" Yes, it is. Impressive, isn't it? " Larkwing nodded.

Patchpaw nodded, his green eyes shining with excitement and awe.

After a while, a single ray of moonlight hit the stone, turning the chamber into as well-lit as during sunhigh.

" What happened?" Patchpaw asked, his fur fluffing up due to surprise.

" We can start your ceremony now. Are you ready for meeting StarClan?" Bristleflight asked him, purring.

Patchpaw nodded, his fur fluffing up due to excitement and slight nervousness. *I'm really going to meet StarClan!*

Bristleflight padded over to the Moonstone, before turning to face Patchpaw.

" Patchpaw , is it your wish to enter the mysteries of StarClan as a medicine cat?"

" It is. " Patchpaw replied ,shaking slightly with excitement and nervousness. .

" Then come forward. " Bristleflight beckoned him with her tail.

After Patchpaw had walked the few paw steps it took him to get to stand in front of his mentor Bristleflight continued the ceremony.

" Warriors of StarClan, I present you with this apprentice. He has chosen a path of a medicine cat. Grant him your wisdom and insight so that he may understand your ways and heal his Clan in accordance with your will." Bristleflight mewed the words of the ceremony.

" Touch the Moonstone with your nose and may all of your dreams be good. " Bristleflight told Patchpaw who touched the glowing stone with his nose, closing his eyes. *Who will I meet in StarClan?*

A/N: What do you think? Do you have any ideas about who Patchpaw could meet?

Chapter 9: Dreams and worries

A/N: I don't own Warriors, Erin Hunter does. I just play with the characters.

" Speech"
Thoughts, dreams
' Flashback'

Patchpaw opened his eyes to a beautiful meadow . As he looked around he saw a dark brown, almost black tabby tom with dark blue eyes and a young grey dappled she-cat looking at him .

After a few heartbeats , the duo approached him and the tabby tom spoke . " Welcome to StarClan Patchpaw . You may not recognize me but I know that my sister thought that I would have been your father instead of Appledusk . "

Patchpaw stared at the tabby with wide eyes before finding his voice. " Are you ... Birchface ?" He asked recalling what Mapleshade and Frecklewish had told him and his littermates about their supposed father .

The tabby tom nodded . " Yes , I am . This is Flowerpaw , my apprentice ." He told Patchpaw , nodding towards the grey she - cat who approached them , with the expression in her pale green eyes showing curiosity and kindness .

Patchpaw wondered why those two cats were chosen to be the ones to greet him . "Do you have a reason to be the ones to greet me?" He asked .

Flowerpaw nodded . " You know how we died ? Birchface got accidentally knocked down Sunningrocks by Appledusk and I jumped into the river to save him . However , we both got swept away by a strong current . " She told him .

" So your deaths were an accident ? Appledusk didn't mean to kill either

of you !" Patchpaw mewed as he realized what Flowerpaw told him .

Birchface nodded . " That is correct . I'm sure he never intended for me to lose my balance on the slippery rocks nor for Flowerpaw to jump into the water after me. "

Patchpaw nodded slightly . " I see . "

" We aren't angry at him nor blame him for his mistakes . Accidents happen , after all ." Birchface continued .

" And neither of us blames your mother for falling for him . Appledusk is quite handsome after all . " Flowerpaw nodded .

" What I don't agree with however was Oakstar's decision to exile her and you and your littermates just because she happened to take the cat who accidentally killed me as her mate . My father should have never done it because it is against the warrior code , but it seems like the grief and rage clouded his judgment . " Birchface told Patchpaw .

After some more time talking to Birchface and Flowerpaw Patchpaw woke up beside the Moonstone along with the other medicine cats, blinking blearily.

" I saw Birchface and Flowerpaw. They don't agree with Oakstar exiling my mother me, or my littermates. " He whispered to Bristleflight who nodded.

" I'm sure they wouldn't, even though Oakstar is his father. " She agreed.

About a quarter moon and a half later Petalpaw and Larchpaw padded into the camp carrying a few pieces of prey with their mentors entering the camp after them.

Mapleshade purred when she saw the carp Larchpaw carried, his head held high.

" That is a good-sized carp. " She told him purring.

Larchpaw nodded proudly after putting the carp onto the fresh kill pile. " I know. It was a bit too slow to get away from me. " He told

Mapleshade, purring proudly.

Mapleshade noticed Birchfoot watching them from the entrance of the warrior's den. After a few heartbeats, the dark brown and white tabby tom padded over to them.

" How are you, Mapleshade? Have you gotten used to being a warrior again?" Birchfoot asked her, purring.

Mapleshade nodded. " I think so. There are still some things that I haven't gotten completely used to yet like fishing in the river, it's not the first time that I have missed a fish swimming in front of me by a whisker's length or more. "

Birchfoot purred. " Fishing while swimming isn't as easy as it seems, it took me some time to catch my first prey that way, too. And it was a tiny minnow, barely enough to feed a kit. My mentor wasn't happy with me at all. He nearly chewed my ear off with his words." He told Mapleshade, recalling the situation.

Mapleshade nodded, looking relieved that she wasn't the only cat who had problems while hunting in the river.

A few days later Mapleshade padded out of the warrior's den, blinking in the sunlight. *Tonight is the Gathering. I'm not sure if Darkstar will allow me to go or not.*

Birchfoot padded out of the den after her, noticing that the tortoiseshell and white she-cat seemed nervous. " Is something wrong?"

" No, unless you don't count the Gathering tonight. " Mapleshade told him, her tail flicking nervously.

" It will be the first Gathering for your kits, right? Is that why you seem so nervous?" He asked, licking Mapleshade's cheek trying to calm her down.

" That is one of the reasons for it. The other one is that I'm not sure if Darkstar will allow me to go, too because it would most definitely enrage Oakstar, and at least some of his warriors. " *Especially Frecklewish because she hates me after she realized that my mate wasn't*

Birchface like she had hoped.

Birchfoot licked her cheek again, purring comfortingly. " I'm sure she will. Oakstar knows the warrior code so I'm sure that he wouldn't want to anger StarClan, especially not in front of other Clans. Not to mention that doing so would break the truce. " He comforted Mapleshade.

Mapleshade nodded, noticing that Cedarstep, one of Birchfoot's sisters was watching them with a slight smirk on her muzzle. *Why is she looking at us like that? We are just friends, not mates.*

Later that day Darkstar called a Clan meeting. " As all of you know tonight will be the Gathering. Those who will attend are Spiketail, Bristleflight, Patchpaw, Shellsong, Larchpaw, Sunblaze, Petalpaw, Hollymist, Otterleap, Smokepaw, Foxslash, Cedarstep, Birchfoot, Eeltail, and Mapleshade.

Those mentioned should rest well before leaving. "

What ?! I will be a part of the Gathering patrol with my kits , Birchfoot , Cedarstep , and Hollymist ?! I hope that Oakstar won't cause a scene during the Gathering because of it ...

After dismissing the Clan Darkstar padded over to Mapleshade. " You appeared to be surprised when I included you as a part of the patrol. Is it because you thought that I would have kept you at the camp ?"

Mapleshade nodded, still slightly surprised at the fact. " I thought that you would keep me at the camp so you wouldn't cause a problem with Oakstar. "

Darkstar purred. " You have nothing to worry about. I will handle Oakstar if he starts to be difficult. I know how to do it." The black she-cat told Mapleshade.

A/N: What do you think? Were Birchface and Flowerpaw being the cats Patchpaw met a surprise to you or not?

Why do you think Cedarstep was looking at Mapleshade and Birchfoot with a smirk?

I'm sorry if there are any typos , I'm a bit sick and didn't really proofread the whole thing.

Chapter 10: Gathering drama

A/N: I don't own Warriors. Erin Hunter does, I just play with the characters.

" Speech"
Thoughts, dreams
' Flashback'

As RiverClan gathering patrol was padding to the Fourtrees Mapleshade was walking beside Darkstar and Spiketail, her tail tip and ears twitching nervously at the thought of the reactions of her former Clan mates. *I hope that Oakstar or Frecklewish won't cause a scene when they see that I and my kits are a part of the RiverClan patrol.*

After a while, the patrol got to the hill that overlooked the gathering hollow.

" You should stay close to either Birchfoot, Cedarstep, or Hollymist, just in case. " Darkstar told her quietly.

Mapleshade nodded, trying to keep calm as the patrol padded into the hollow. *This is it. Oh, StarClan, please don't let anything bad happen tonight.*

After a few heartbeats, she felt a familiar pelt brushing against hers. As the tortoiseshell and white she-cat turned to look, she saw the slightly worried face of Birchfoot looking back at her.

" Are you alright?" He asked, his mew quiet and calming.

Mapleshade nodded slightly. " I think so. "
He purred, licking her cheek gently. " You'll be alright, I promise. "

Mapleshade purred a little at his reassurance. *I hope so.*

After the RiverClan patrol joined the rest of Gathering Mapleshade saw Cedarstep padding over to a group of warriors and a few new-

looking apprentices. She started to talk with a dark grey tabby tom with a long tail and amber eyes. The tom looked at her with a slightly surprised expression before nodding and purring loudly. *Why did he look so surprised? What could Cedarstep have told him?*

After some time the leader of WindClan, a dark grey and black tom called Swiftstar yowled, signaling the start of the gathering. " WindClan has two new apprentices. Fernpaw has started her training under Cloudwing and her sister, Brindlepaw is training under Slatefur. Also, Nightfall has given birth to Cloudwing's kits. "

After the gathered Clans had stopped yowling the names of the new WindClan apprentices, it was the turn of ShadowClan's leader, Hollystar whose night-black fur camouflaged him in the shadows, so that only his green eyes and white paws were visible. He padded to the edge of the rock, gazing upon the gathered cats with a small sneer on his muzzle before starting his announcement.

" ShadowClan has had plentiful prey this season and we are growing stronger and stronger than before. We have three new apprentices. Lightningpaw is training under Wolffur, Ripplepaw under Sageblaze, and Cherrypaw under Splashflame. Also, Dewstep has moved into the nursery because she's expecting Owltalon's kits. "

Mapleshade saw the trio of young cats look surprised and a bit proud yet shy when the Clans yowled their names. After the yowls had died down, one of the trio, a pale cream she-cat with jagged dark cream stripes and dark blue eyes, padded over to Petalpaw and Larchpaw who were with their mentors. The tortoiseshell and white warrior purred at the sight of her kits interacting with cats from other Clans. *Hopefully, they will find new friends from other Clans during this gathering.*

After that, Darkstar padded forward, her yellow eyes shining with pride. " RiverClan has gained three new apprentices. " She announced to the crowd.

" I didn't know that any of the kits in your Clan were ready to be apprenticed. I thought that the litter of your deputy was too young. " Hollystar mewed, looking at the black she-cat.

" The kits I'm talking about weren't born in RiverClan but they have RiverClan blood. " Darkstar told him, which caused a furious hiss from Oakstar.

" Are they Mapleshade's abominations?! You really took those Half-Clan rats in your Clan?!" Oakstar hissed, lashing his tail, dark brown hackles bristling.

Darkstar nodded, her eyes narrowing. " Yes, they are her kits. I took them in my Clan after you exiled them and their mother during a storm when you knew that the river would possibly flood. " She replied Oakstar. The revelation caused a chorus of hisses and yowls along with shocked gasps from the cats.

" Did he really exile kits?! It's against the code! " Mapleshade heard a cat yowl from the crowd.

Darkstar nodded, her tail lashing. " Yes, he did. Thank StarClan, I had sent a border patrol to check if the river was flooding who managed to get her and the kits to safety. "

Oakstar hissed. " They had no place in MY Clan, especially because they carry the blood of a MURDERER. " He spat, fur bristling.

" The deaths of Birchface and Flowerpaw were an accident! Patchpaw saw them in StarClan when he got to the Moonstone for his medicine cat ceremony. " Bristleflight yowled, glaring at the ThunderClan leader.

" That is true. I have seen your son, too, and he told me that he doesn't agree with your decision to exile an innocent queen and her kits, even if her choice of mate was... rather unfortunate. " Ravenwing, ThunderClan medicine cat spoke up.

Oakstar kept quiet, his fur still bristling.

After the commotion died down Darkstar continued with the announcement. " As Bristleflight said Patchpaw is training to become a medicine cat and he has been accepted as the RiverClan medicine cat apprentice by StarClan. Meanwhile, Petalpaw is training under Sunblaze and Larchpaw is training under Shellsong. "

She told the Clans, glancing at the ThunderClan leader who simply glared back at her.

" Patchpaw! Petalpaw! Larchpaw! Patchpaw! Petalpaw! Larchpaw!" The Clans yowled but the yowls from ThunderClan patrol were more reserved and quiet compared to the rest.

Mapleshade purred proudly when she heard the Clans calling the new names of her kits. *I know that they will make their new Clan proud as warriors and medicine cat. I know that I will be proud of them no matter what. I can't wait to hear the Clans calling their warrior or medicine cat names when they finally receive them.*

Suddenly she heard the sound of paw steps approaching. When the tortoiseshell and white she-cat looked in the direction she was met by the familiar gaze of one of her former Clanmates, a beautiful light brown she-cat with white toes and green eyes called Nutstep.

" How are you, Mapleshade? Have you gotten used to living in RiverClan? Are you happy there? I saw you with that RiverClan tom, Birchfoot, right? Is he your friend or perhaps a mate, even? " Nutstep asked in rapid succession.

" I'm fine and yes, I have gotten used to living in RiverClan. Yes, I am happy there, mostly because of Birchfoot and my other friends, including his two sisters. And yes, he's my friend. We aren't mates. " *Yet, at least.* Mapleshade replied, keeping her tone and expression neutral.

Nutstep purred. " I'm glad to hear that. "

Meanwhile, Oakstar announced two new apprentices for ThunderClan. " Thistlepaw is training under Featherleap and her sister Finchpaw is training under Rainshade. This Gathering is over. " He announced before leaping down from the Great Rock and gathering his patrol while the three other leaders did the same.

After the Gathering ended and all of the Clans headed back home.

A/N: What do you think? Do you think that Oakstar will cause even more problems than he already has? Do you have any guesses on

what Cedarstep told to that WindClan tom?

I'm so sorry for the delay in writing. I have been pretty busy and haven't had much of time to plan plotlines for the stories.

Chapter 11: Visions and Warnings

A/N: I don't own Warriors. Erin Hunter does. I just play with the characters.

" Speech"

Dreams, visions, thoughts

' Flashback'

About half a moon after the Gathering Mapleshade was padding back to the RiverClan camp with a few small minnows in her jaws. Beside her were Birchfoot, Cedarstep, and Hollymist. The patrol had been rather successful with their hunt.

" I nearly lost that carp. Thank you for the help, Hollymist " Cedarstep mewed at the young black warrior.

Hollymist purred. " You're welcome. I thought you needed the help, because of your condition. "

Cedarstep purred a bit. " I know that. I'll have to move to the nursery soon. " The reddish-brown and white queen was about moon along.

As the patrol padded to the camp Mapleshade noticed that Petalpaw and Larchpaw were leaving the camp with their mentors and a few other warriors.

Petalpaw padded over to the hunting patrol, eyes shining with excitement and nervousness. " We are going to go mark the border with ThunderClan. I hope everything goes well."

Mapleshade nodded to her daughter, purring. " Don't worry about it, you'll be fine if you stay near your mentor and follow his instructions. " She reassured her.

Petalpaw purred, nodding. " I will, mama. I'll do my best to be the best apprentice ever. "

Mapleshade purred, nudging her gently. " Go now, little one. Go impress every warrior possible. "

After the border patrol left Mapleshade shared a small carp with Birchfoot, enjoying the closeness of the dark brown and white tabby. *Maybe someday we will become more than good friends, I certainly hope so. He has been a perfect father figure for my kits, even though he knows that they aren't his.*

Later, when Mapleshade was washing herself she saw the familiar form of her son approaching the leader's den with a worried expression on his face. *Did something happen? Why else Patchpaw would look so worried?*

Patchpaw padded into the leader's den. " Darkstar? I have something to tell you. "

The black she-cat turned to look at him. " What is it?"

" I had a vision of a fight with ThunderClan. However, unlike most of the skirmishes, it was here, at the camp, instead of Sunningrocks and I think I saw Oakstar attacking you with a few of the stronger-looking warriors of his. During the attack, I heard him yowling ' Where are they?! Those rats do not belong in any Clan! They can barely be called cats! They should have drowned in the river!'

Then I saw how a few of the other warriors were fighting with my mother, trying to drive her out of the camp. I think that they were trying to do that to my littermates too. I don't want that to happen! " Patchpaw explained to her, with a nervous expression, nearly wailing the last part.

Darkstar listened to him patiently. " Thank you for the information about the vision. I will double the border patrols on the ThunderClan side. Have you told Bristleflight about the vision? If not, you should do that. "

Patchpaw nodded. " I told her about it instantly and she told me to

come to talk to you. " He told the leader with a nervous twitch of his tailtip.

Darkstar purred a bit, trying to calm him down. " That's good to hear. And don't worry about it, I'll handle it. "

Patchpaw nodded, padding out of the den. *I hope that the vision won't come true. Oh, StarClan, what do I do?*

Meanwhile, in ThunderClan, Oakstar was pacing around in his den, his claws digging into the dirt floor as the thoughts of the last Gathering swirled around in his head like a restless current. *Why would Darkstar give a place from RiverClan to her and her half-Clan spawn? They have the blood of a murderer in their veins! They don't belong in any Clan! They should be driven out! From all of the Clans! I will do it myself if Darkstar won't!*

After what felt like moons of planning which warriors to take with him, Oakstar padded out of his den and to the clearing before jumping onto Highrock and calling the Clan meeting.

As the Clan gathered under the Highrock he started the meeting. " As you know, in the last Gathering we got rather surprising news from Darkstar. She has taken Mapleshade and her half-Clan rats to RiverClan, even giving one of them a sought-after position of a medicine cat apprentice. I don't think they should live in any of the Clans, polluting them with the blood of a murderer. I think they should be driven out! Since Darkstar hasn't done it, we will! " He yowled, bristling.

" But Oakstar! The kits haven't done anything to ThunderClan, have they? I don't think they deserve to be driven out, no matter what Clan they are in. " He heard the voice of Sweetbriar, a light brown tabby she-cat with white paws, try to protest. She was looking at him with wide green eyes.

Oakstar didn't react to it, starting to tell the patrols he had planned. " Beetail, Deerdapple, Frecklewish, Seedpelt, Bloomheart, Whisperlight, and Hawkleap are the first attacking patrol. Your goal is to ambush any cat that tries to stop us from reaching the camp.

While Stagfoot, Flamepool, Deerspot, Featherleap, and Patchcloud are the second patrol. You will be driving her and the rats out from RiverClan. " He mewed, eyes alight with a hunger for justice. *I will do it for you, Birchface. You should have been a part of ThunderClan, and have a real mate and kits. I will avenge you, my son. I promise it.*

A/N: A little bit shorter chapter this time. Sorry for the wait, life got in the way of writing. But, what do you think? Will Patchpaw's vision come true?

Chapter 12: Battle and Two Deaths

A/N: I don't own Warriors. Erin Hunter does. I just play with the characters.

" Speech"

Thoughts, dreams, visions

' Flashback'

The sunrise after Pathpaw's vision Mapleshade was padding back to the RiverClan camp with Birchfoot, Frostpelt, Hollymist, and Foxslash. They had been on a hunting patrol, having caught several minnows, a small carp, and two water voles.

" Thank StarClan, I managed to catch the carp. Larchpaw will love it, it's his favorite prey after all. " Birchfoot mewed, purring slightly.

Mapleshade nodded. " He almost caught a carp yesterday himself. " She purred proudly. *Both he and Petalpaw are shaping up into great warriors. I can't wait to see how well they will do at their warrior assessments.*

Suddenly there was a multitude of screeches coming from the direction of the camp. *What happened? Did ThunderClan attack, like Patchpaw's vision showed?*

When the patrol got back to the camp they saw a few ThunderClan warriors fighting with the guards, Stormfeather, whose long dark grey and orange pelt was bushed up even more than usual as she rolled around with a silver and black tabby she-cat while Gorsespot, was glaring at two other ThunderClanners, his cream spotted tabby tail lashing around.

What are Deerdapple, Bloomheart, and Hawkleap doing here? Are they

a part of an attack patrol or something? Why would Oakstar do that?! Does he have bees in his brain? Mapleshade thought while staring at the three ThunderClan cats.

" Where are the rats Mapleshade gave birth?! " Bloomheart hissed, his fur bristling as he tried to get past Gorsespot who hissed back at him.
" You will not get to the camp. " The white and cream tom snarled, swiping at Bloomheart who barely dodged the attack, swiping back at him.

Mapleshade had dropped the two water voles she had been carrying , while glaring at her former mentor. *Did he really dare to call my kits ' rats ' ?! He was my mentor and taught me everything he knew !*

' Newly named Maplepaw padded over to her new, mentor , Bloomheart , while her littermates , Thornpaw, a black tom with a few small white hairs scattered across his spiky pelt , his dark green eyes wide with excitement from finally becoming an apprentice, and Poppypaw, a tortoiseshell and white she-cat with green eyes were watching her beside their mentors.

After a few moments , their parents, Hailpelt, a long-haired black tom with a few small white patches, and Dawntail, a pale tortoiseshell and white she-cat approached them, purring proudly.

" I know that you three will make all of ThunderClan proud. " Dawntail told her kits, while licking each of her kit's foreheads gently, her amber eyes shining.

" Yeah, mama! We will! I promise!" Poppypaw nodded, purring.

A few moons later when Maplepaw and her siblings were on a border patrol with their mentors , they faced a fox that was devouring a rabbit with a clear WindClan's stink on it. The beast had suddenly turned towards the cats who had disturbed it's feeding time , snarling angrily. "

Little did my sister know that neither she nor Thornpaw would live to become warriors... That fox took both of my siblings from me! First Poppypaw by snapping her neck and Thornpaw by wounding him badly

and the medicine cat by not being fast enough to save either of them, even Ravenwing is guilty because he was her apprentice! I hope she rots in Dark Forest! Swiftbreeze may have been a good medicine cat in Oakstar's mind but not in my mind!

Mapleshade's thoughts were interrupted by a yowl from her former mentor as he noticed the patrol, attacking Birchfoot who was the closest to ThunderClanners. The dark brown and white tabby yowled in pain and anger before striking the grey tom, his fur bushing up in outrage.

Meanwhile, Deerdapple had gotten pinned down by her opponent who was scratching her back with her back claws while hissing for a few heartbeats before letting the silver tabby go with a yowl of: " That's right! Run away, you mangy squirrel-chaser! "

Foxslash hissed at Hawkleap before using a flurry of forepaw slashes on her after the she-cat had scratched his flank and cheek which were now bleeding.

" What is she doing here?" Hawkleap hissed, glaring at Mapleshade, her amber eyes glowing with anger.

" She's our Clanmate, that's what!" *And hopefully someday my mate.* Birchfoot hissed at the pale ginger tabby she-cat before swiping at her when she tried to pounce on Mapleshade.

" Oh, really? I wonder how crazy Darkstar would have to be to take a ThunderClan warrior who hunts and fights even worse than a kittypet while in RiverClan territory in her Clan. Probably crazier than a fox in a fit. " Hawkleap spat before using a front paw blow on him which caused Mapleshade to hiss angrily and swipe at her former Clanmate.

" I will show you how bad of a fighter I am right now!" Mapleshade hissed angrily , her already fluffy fur bushing up, making her to look bigger than she really was.

Hawkleap hissed before rearing up and hitting the tortoiseshell and white she-cat with a forepaw slash, causing her to hiss and yowl in pain.

Mapleshade shook her head, trying to stop the ringing in her ears before using a front paw blow on the ginger tabby.

Suddenly, there was an angry yowl and some of the other ThunderClan warriors ran over to the group, being led by Oakstar himself. *What is going on? Is this... the vision Patchpaw had yesterday?*

Oakstar's patrol ran into the RiverClan camp, yowling and hissing angrily.

" Where are Mapleshade and her abominations?! " Oakstar hissed , while glaring at Darkstar who hissed back at him defiantly.
" I will never tell that to you! " She snarled, fangs bared.

Oakstar hissed. " You will tell that to me! Or else you will meet StarClan sooner rather later! " He yowled before attacking the RiverClan leader with a front paw blow which caused her to hiss in pain before raising up to her haunches and using a forepaw slash on his neck and body, causing the dark brown tom to hiss before he used the belly rake on her, causing the black she-cat to jump away from him before lunging at the ThunderClan leader again.

Meanwhile, Birchfoot and the rest of the patrol got to the camp, only to be noticed by Frecklewish who charged at the group, her eyes blazing with deep hatred and... betrayal? towards the tortoiseshell and white she-cat in the middle of the group.

" MAPLESHADE! How dare you grovel in front of the fishbreaths so that they'd take you and your half-Clan rats in, denouncing ThunderClan at the same time?! Weren't the lies you spread about my brother enough for you? " The spotted golden tabby she-cat hissed, spit flying from her maw.

" I never lied about Birchface being the father of my kits!" Mapleshade hissed back at her, her eyes narrowing before dodging the attack from her former Clanmate.

Frecklewish hissed before lunging at the tortoiseshell and white she-cat with bared fangs and unsheated claws, fully intending to end her. However, the ThunderClan warrior's attack was stopped by a dark brown and white blur that slashed at her neck and sides while

hissing.

" Stay away from her!" Birchfoot hissed into Frecklewhish's ear angrily before biting on her shoulder slightly.

Frecklewish screeched before wriggling free from his grip and turning around to face the new attacker, her tail lashing around.

" I will show her what happens to betrayers! " Frecklewish screeched before lunging at Mapleshade again, this time striking her cheek with her claws which caused the tortoiseshell to hiss and swipe at her, striking the golden she-cat's neck which caused the few small wounds she already had around there to bleed more and more with every passing heartbeat.

After what felt like forever Frecklewish continued to fight with Mapleshade , striking at her and yowling about how she betrayed her Clan the golden she-cat collapsed on the ground, her tail and paws twitching a few times before she laid there, completely still , dark amber eyes staring into nothing.

" Frecklewish! NO! " Oakstar yowled before rushing over to his daughter's body.

" You killed my daughter, Mapleshade! You will pay for this!" Oakstar yowled at her before lunging at the tortoiseshell and white she-cat who barely dodged the attack.

Oakstar managed to headbutt her , causing her to stumble before he struck at her flank and sides, hissing.

" You will die now!" Oakstar hissed into her ear angrily before rearing his head back , ready to deliver the killing blow.

Suddenly Mapleshade smelt the scent of Darkstar who bowled the ThunderClan leader away from her, hissing angrily.

" You will not touch her! Not even one hair of her pelt or those of her kits!" The black she-cat hissed at him before striking at the brown tom's shoulder but Oakstar reared up at the same which caused the strike to hit his throat. The ThunderClan leader collapsed onto the ground , bleeding profusely from his throat.

After a few heartbeats , the wound healed and he started to stir.

Oakstar laid on the ground for a few moments before getting back to his paws and calling " ThunderClan, retreat! ThunderClan, retreat!"

After hearing the call of their leader the ThunderClan warriors formed around him , a few of them staring Frecklewish's body in horror.

" We have lost the battle. Frecklewish is dead and needs to be buried on her own territory instead of here. Bloomheart and Seedpelt , you two can carry her to our camp. " Oakstar told his Clanmates in a dead voice.

Bloomheart and Seedpelt approached the dead she-cat before taking her onto their backs and starting to slowly walk back to their own camp along with the rest of the patrol.

After the last ThunderClan cat had left RiverClan camp Darkstar called a Clan meeting.

" As most of you know, the reason why I told Shellsong and Sunblaze to take their apprentices out of the camp so they wouldn't be here as a way to try to keep them safe if their brother's vision came true.

Now, we have an apprentice that I think has earned his warrior name. Toadpaw , step forward. " Darkstar mewed before beckoning the light brown and white tom forward with her tail.

Toadpaw padded forward, his head and tail held high , amber eyes shining with excitement and pride.

" I, Darkstar, leader of RiverClan, call upon my warrior ancestors to look down on this apprentice. He has trained hard to understand your noble code and I commend him to you as a warrior in his turn. " Darkstar started the warrior ceremony.

After a few heartbeats , she turned to look at Toadpaw , who looked at her with a proud expression.

" Toadpaw, do you promise to uphold the warrior code and to protect and defend your Clan, even at the cost of your life?" She asked him.

" I do, Darkstar! " Toadpaw mewed , nodding.

" Then by the powers of StarClan, I give you your warrior name. Toadpaw,from this moment on , you will be known as Toadfang. StarClan honors your fighting skill and bravery and we welcome you as a full warrior of RiverClan." Darkstar ended the ceremony before the Clan cheered at the newly named Toadfang, who was looking around the camp proudly.

Mapleshade called his name quietly, not really liking the newest warrior of RiverClan. *He seems to be rather proud one. And a troublemaker on top of that... After all he is friends with Perchpelt and his littermates.*

A/N: What do you think? Who do you think Oakstar saw in StarClan when he lost the life? Birchface? Frecklewish? Or maybe someone else? What do you think about Toadfang? Will he be causing trouble for Mapleshade and her kits now, since he's again in the same den as Perchpelt and his littermates?